

BEAVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 9.10.01
SUBJECT: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) DRUG
DETECTION CANINE, USE OF
EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2002
REVIEW: SEPTEMBER 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012

1. PURPOSE. It is the purpose of this policy to provide guidelines for the management and tactical deployment of drug detection canines.

2. POLICY. The police department equips and maintains a unit of officers and canines known as the Canine Unit. In addition, the department has a separate unit comprised of two teams of school resource officers and drug detection dogs called the SRO/Canine Unit. This policy outlines those procedures pertaining to deployment, and the care and use of the drug detection canines.

3. PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF SRO/CANINE UNIT. The primary responsibility of the SRO/Canine Unit is to work in partnership with the Beaverton School District in the search and recovery of controlled substances through announced and unannounced random searches at schools and adjacent school properties, as requested by the school district. It is the unit's secondary responsibility to assist patrol with searches, as requested, for purposes of identifying and locating controlled substances.

4. CANINE TEAM UTILIZATION.

A. Requesting an Off-duty SRO/Canine Team.

- 1) A lieutenant or on duty sergeant may choose to call-out an SRO/Canine Team. The SRO canine handlers can be contacted for duty through their department issued cellular telephone or pager.
- 2) Once a supervisor has made the request, the handler and supervisor will assess the call and make a determination as to whether it is appropriate for the team to respond.

B. Requesting an On Duty SRO/Canine Team.

- 1) Department personnel, through their supervisor, may request an SRO/Canine Team to conduct a controlled substance assist under the following circumstances:
 - a. The person controlling the location has given consent for the canine to conduct a search, or
 - b. The canine assist is conducted incident to arrest, or
 - c. The canine assist is conducted before a vehicle is towed or impounded, or
 - d. The canine assist is conducted as a result of reasonable suspicion that narcotics activity is occurring, or
 - e. The canine assist is conducted under any circumstances where consent is not required (e.g., search warrant, parole, probation, open to public, etc.).
- 2) The decision to conduct any canine assist will be at the discretion of the SRO canine handler. The handler will base his/her decision to assist, on the team's certified training and what is best for the SRO/Canine Team and police department.

C. Outside Agency Requests. With the approval of the COPPS sergeant or the on duty supervisor, SRO/Canine Teams may respond to requests for searches made by outside agencies.

5. TEAM QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING.

- A. Applicants for SRO/Canine Teams must meet the selection criteria set forth in the job description. In addition, the following will be considered:
- 1) Interest in the canine field;
 - 2) Knowledge of, or a willingness to become familiar with, narcotics canine work and procedures;
 - 3) Temperament and suitability for dog handler duties;
 - 4) Proven ability to exercise sound judgment and initiative;
 - 5) An ability to perform duties in stressful situations with limited supervision;

- 6) The ability to maintain good physical condition consistent with the demands of canine handling;
 - 7) A willingness to work as part of a team; and,
 - 8) A willingness (together with other family members) to care for and house the canine at the officer's residence in such a way that will create and maintain a strong bond between the officer and the canine.
- B. SRO canine handlers and their drug detection canines must complete a training program conducted by a certified narcotics canine trainer; the teams must demonstrate proficiency in detecting substances.
 - C. Each SRO/Canine Team must be certified, and remain certified, under the standards prescribed by the Oregon Police Canine Association (OPCA).
 - D. The SRO canine handler shall adhere to an ongoing program of maintenance training to maintain peak canine performance. This is the responsibility of each SRO canine handler. The training will be reviewed periodically by the COPPS sergeant, and by the supervisor of the Patrol Division's Canine Unit. SRO/Canine Teams will strive to maintain peak performance at all times.
 - E. SRO canine handlers will keep a maintenance and training log of all activities, to include searches conducted and their results.
 - F. SRO canine handlers will document all training the officer and his/her canine have received.
6. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE TRAINING AIDS. Continuous training is necessary and essential in order to ensure that the SRO/Canine Teams maintain a high level of detection proficiency. Controlled substance training aids will be made available to the handlers. The safety and security of the training aids are the responsibility of the handlers.
- A. General Procedures for the Issuance of Controlled Substance Training Aids. Controlled substances used for training will be limited to heroin, marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, and methamphetamines.

B. Security of Training Aids.

- 1) The training aids will be stored in a metal box with a locking mechanism. The box will be secured in the trunk of the SRO canine handler's assigned patrol vehicle. Only SRO canine handlers approved for narcotics detection will have access to the storage box.
- 2) The SRO canine handler's assigned patrol vehicle will be equipped with an audible anti-theft device that will be activated on the car when the handler is not in the presence of the vehicle.
- 3) Controlled substances will be weighed frequently and on random occasions at the discretion of the COPPS sergeant. Inspections of training aids will be documented within the handler's maintenance and training log. All controlled substances will be recycled for fresh aids every six months. All controlled substances will be packaged and sealed properly. Disposing of old aids will be the responsibility of the SRO canine handlers per those procedures outlined in the agency's general orders, and through the department's property room staff.
- 4) Training aids may vary in weight and shape.
- 5) If, at any time, a training aid is lost or spilled, the SRO is to notify the COPPS sergeant and on duty sergeant immediately.

7. CANINE USE AND CARE.

A. Care of the Canine. Canine handlers are personally responsible for the daily care and feeding of their assigned drug detection canine. SRO handlers shall:

- 1) Immediately report any abnormal behavior.
- 2) Keep the canine's home and kennel clean and sanitary.
- 3) Thoroughly groom the canine on a regular basis.
- 4) Provide the canine with exercise to ensure a level of physical fitness appropriate to the performance of tasks expected of a working drug detection police dog.
- 5) Notify the COPPS sergeant when any medical service for a drug detection canine is required, and the veterinary bill is to exceed \$300, unless it is a life-saving emergency.

- B. Handling the Canine. Members of the department shall not feed, tease, agitate, or play with a drug detection canine unless the handler grants permission.

The following rules apply to how the school resource officer shall handle their assigned drug detection canine.

- 1) Handlers shall not permit anyone to handle the dog, unless:
 - a. The handler gives prior permission and provides supervision.
 - b. The handler is injured and/or unable to command the dog and there is an immediate need for the dog to be handled by a qualified handler or veterinarian.
- 2) The canine must be under the direct control of the SRO/canine handler both on and off duty.
- 3) The handler shall not leave their drug detection canine unattended under conditions where the dog could come in contact with members of the public, or be harmed by any potential hazards.

- C. Public Relations. To avoid misunderstandings, and in furtherance of good public relations, the following rules are to be adhered to by the SRO canine handlers:

- 1) Canine training work will not be photographed, videotaped, or publicly exhibited without first obtaining approval from the Chief of Police.
- 2) All public relations demonstrations must have prior approval from the COPPS sergeant.
- 3) Public relations demonstrations are to be prepared in a manner that will ensure a professional presentation to the audience.

Chief of Police

Date